Dear Bud, 12/31/75

I've decided to have Lil retype the letter I wrote you last night so it will be more legible. And so I can have copies for a selected few of those who may write. As in the past when I've been publicly silent through these miserable demonstrations of your inability to live with your undeviating record of incompetence and error in this field, I have no intention of taking any public initiatives. However, we are in a different time. Your customary bad judgement is largely responsible for the present situation. You were one of the bad influences in New Orleans, again with the self-promoter and self-seeker Lane, who has taken the current lead in seeing to it that the Congress is misinformed.

From the moment you knew you were as wrong as I predicted in the concept of your CTIA you have been resentful, not over your stupidity in not being able to figure these kinds of things out for yourself but because I was right and it was and remains an abortion that in its best moments did no harm. Every time I've had to bail you out instead of appreciating that I not only did it but did it in public silence your resebtment grew because your self concept diminished.

Concern for what I was working on is what has kept me silent. If what I work on requires a change of me, as I have been able to be silent under this stream of defamations you have spread from coast to coast over the years so also will I be able to if you get your sick ego and foolish mouth under control.

I ignored your silly outburst to the Post. You can't think well of yourself any other way. This time with Oui! you have crossed the line at a time when if all you self-important ones were genuinely interested in accomplishment rather then in self-importance, it could well make the difference. But because none of you were capable of the work, none willing to invest the enormous unpaid labor it required, you indulge jealousy and other low personal feelings. At this juncture it undermines the case put together that could be what the Congress needs. This necessarily changes my attitude and what I am willing to do if it becomes necessary.

My demand for an apology in writing is not for publication. It is for between Oui! and me. I cant make you write it, false as is what you said, but I can make you sorry about both. Circumstances and needs as at any time I perceive them will make my decision for you and for me. Believe me, if I ever have to unload I'll do it thoroughly. Factually. And with abundant proofs. I don't think you'll have much reputation left if I do. You put all your abdications out of your minds and all the other errors, often of cowardice and commonly of ignorence of the naterial in which you pretend expertise.

One of the reasons has been so that we might prevail in the Ray case. In this you have been the single biggest obstacle. But you have had no reluctance in sitting back and glowing on camera and taking full public credit for the work you did not do. You couldn't even prepare your own courtwork, from the first Williams hearing, where you asked it of me to the evidentiary hearing, where I had it all worked out for you while you were vacationing. I think you'd do well to keep in mind what there will be if I feel I face the need.

One minor thing that would make you much trouble is your double-crossing, behind-the-back way of killing an arrangement for a favorable story in Playboy, a carefully restricted one and for spurious reasons and then offering me and Jim cash for doing a bad story for you friend at Penhouse. As you know, we both were not for sale, much as we needed funds.

If it is possible for me to do anything about Oui! I will. It happens that after Shales first spoke to me I called him back because the thrust became clear after I had a chance to think of the call. I have abundant records and there are relevant to accuracy and libel and other hurt for which I believe redress is possible. I checked my files last night and find I wrote Jim about this so he'd have a record, in August. Oui! was warned from inside of the dangers of the piece. If this happens, if I am in a position to do something, you will be involved.

I don't think that anyone or anything can make you think about yourself, your attitudes or what you have done. But for your sake I hope the time comes. You have done more than enough to ruin the reputation of a less fortunate person. But it can't last indefinitely and it will not survive any real exposures. If there are any, they will be because you have eliminated the alternatives. You are making the decision for me. HW